

Tribal Clean Air Act Grant Program: 2005 Request for Proposals

Overview

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 9, is currently soliciting Clean Air Act, Sections 103 and 105 grant proposals from both new and currently funded federally recognized tribal governments and intertribal consortia.

Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Number: 66.001 for Clean Air Act Section 105 and 66.034 for Clean Air Act 103

Important Dates:

November 23, 2004	Solicitation distributed by EPA
January 25, 2005	Proposal must be postmarked by this date
March 1, 2005	Funding decisions/application kit mailed by EPA
April 15, 2005	Application/work plan (SF424) postmarked no later than this date
September 30, 2005	Awards made

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Full Text Announcement

I. Funding Opportunity Description

Background and Purpose

It is EPA policy to work with Indian Nations on a government-to-government basis to enhance environmental protection in Indian Country. The purpose of this grant program is to provide funding for tribal air pollution control programs and projects which support tribal air quality assessment and the development of tribal air program capacity. Funds are available for tribal air grants under Sections 103 and 105 of the Clean Air Act (CAA). All grant activities must be related to air pollution and/or air pollution control. In addition, the goal of these grants is to assist tribes in developing the capacity to manage their own air quality programs in accordance with their individual needs. EPA expects grantees will use quarterly reports to document quantifiable environmental results.

II. Award Information

The Environmental Protection Agency is pleased to announce the availability of approximately \$2,500,000 in federal funds to fund tribal air programs under Sections 103 and 105 of the Clean Air Act (CAA). Our goal is to provide funding for new tribal air recipients and to continue support for existing tribal programs subject to availability of funds. Funding amounts will be based on funding availability, the number of tribes submitting applications, and the proposal evaluation criteria listed in this solicitation. Funding is not guaranteed for all applicants.

All proposals should be submitted for work to be performed during the period of October 1, 2005, to September 30, 2006. Project budgets typically range from \$50,000 to \$120,000. However, requests of more than \$120,000 may be considered, depending on demonstrated need and funding availability. It is

unlikely that our available funding will allow us to fund all proposals, or to fully fund all selected proposals. Consequently, selected applicants may be offered funds in an amount less than the proposal requests. Awards made under Section 103 do not require a non-federal match. However, applicants may contribute a non-federal cash or in-kind match toward completion of the proposed project. CAA Section 105 does have a match requirement; prospective Section 105 applicants should contact their EPA project officer for more information.

III. Eligibility Information

Federally recognized Indian tribes and intertribal consortia located within Region 9 are eligible to receive funds under this program.

An intertribal consortium is defined as a partnership between two or more tribes authorized by the governing bodies of those tribes to apply for and receive assistance under this program. An intertribal consortium is eligible to receive an air grant if the consortium demonstrates that:

- 1) a majority of its members meet the eligibility requirements for AIR grants;
- 2) all members that meet the eligibility requirements authorize the consortium to apply for and receive the grant, and acknowledge that funds awarded to the consortium might otherwise have been awarded to member tribes; and
- 3) only members that meet the eligibility requirements will benefit directly from the grant project (and the consortium agrees to a grant condition to that effect).

Adequate documentation of these requirements must be submitted to EPA.

Examples of Fundable Projects:

Activities conducted under these grants often include: air pollution control program development, air quality assessments, identification and investigation of air pollution sources, ambient air quality monitoring, community education and outreach on air pollution issues, and participation in local, regional and

national air quality initiatives.

Activities not Eligible for Funding:

Activities that are not related to air pollution and/or air pollution control.

IV. Proposal Submission Information

Solicitation: This solicitation notice requesting proposals for FY 2006 tribal air grant funding will be distributed to all federally recognized tribes in Region 9.

Proposal: To apply for these funds, a proposal must be no longer than five pages (including workplan and budget summary pages), and postmarked by January 25, 2005. It must address each of the Evaluation Criteria and follow the format outlined below.

Applicants are strongly advised to avoid submission of extemporaneous materials. Final applications, including final workplan and budget, will be accepted only from those eligible entities whose initial proposal has been successfully evaluated and selected for award. **DO NOT INCLUDE THESE DOCUMENTS WITH THE INITIAL PROPOSAL.**

The following format should be used:

1. Name of Tribe
2. Tribal Program Contact: name, address, phone number, fax number, email address
3. Air Quality Issues and Environmental Risk: Describe the air pollution concerns of the tribe.
The proposal should address the following:

a) Identify the types of air monitoring equipment located on the reservation which were funded under the Clean Air Act.

Required: Tribes with EPA-funded air monitoring stations must submit a one-page summary of air quality monitoring data from a recent time period, preferably the previous 12 months.

- b) Identify major stationary air pollution sources located within tribal jurisdiction, including Title V sources.
 - c) Describe other, non-major, air pollution sources of concern located within tribal jurisdiction.
 - d) Indicate whether or not the Reservation is located in an area that has been designated by EPA as “non-attainment” for one of the pollutants for which there are National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS.)
 - e) Describe air pollution problems caused by transport from off-reservation, including nearby stationary sources and urban areas.
 - f) Describe any other air pollution concerns of the tribe.
4. Current Air Quality Program Activities: Describe the Air Quality Activities of the tribe.

The proposal should address the following:

- a) Ambient Air Monitoring: Describe the type of existing air monitoring equipment used by the tribe to monitor and collect data; the status of Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs); and the submittal of air quality monitoring data into EPA’s national database (AQS).
- b) Regulatory Program Development: Describe any air quality legislation enacted by the tribal government; any air quality regulations promulgated by the tribal government; air permitting/compliance activities.
- c) Outreach and Education Initiatives: Describe activities which involve the dissemination of information regarding air pollution to the community and/or tribal leadership.
- d) Participation in Regional and National Initiatives: Describe efforts the tribe has made to participate in both national and regional air quality initiatives on an ongoing basis.

- e) Other Tribal Air Program Activities: Describe any other Tribal program activities not previously addressed.
5. Work Plan Summary: Submit a one page summary which includes work plan tasks, outcomes/deliverables, time line for completion of work plan tasks and estimated staff time for completing each work plan task.
 6. Budget Breakdown: Submit a one page summary which addresses each of the following: Personnel, Fringe, Travel Expenses, Equipment, Supplies, Contractual, Other, Direct Charges, Indirect Charges (Indirect Rate), Total Funding Amount Requested.

Please send three copies of the proposal to:

Tribal Grants Coordinator
Air Division (AIR-8)
U.S. EPA Region 9
75 Hawthorne St.
San Francisco, CA 94105

Proposals may also be faxed by January 25, 2005, to the following: 415-947-3579 or 415-947-3581.

For additional information, please contact Gary Lance, Tribal Grants Coordinator, at (415) 972-3992. Proposals **must** be postmarked by January 25, 2005. *Proposals postmarked after this date will not be reviewed.*

V. Proposal Review Information

Evaluation Criteria

Each eligible proposal will be evaluated according to the criteria set forth below. Submission of the proposal is the most significant phase in the competitive process. **Proposals which are best able to directly and explicitly address these criteria will have a greater likelihood of being selected for award.** The evaluation criteria and corresponding point values are listed below. The maximum score is 100 points.

1. Criteria 1- Air Quality Issues and Environmental Risk (Maximum 75 Points)

Your proposal will be evaluated based upon how well it describes and addresses the air pollution concerns of the tribe including the following:

A) Identification of the types of air monitoring equipment located on the reservation which were funded under the Clean Air Act. **Required: Tribes with EPA-funded air monitoring stations must submit a one-page summary of air quality monitoring data from a recent time period, preferably the previous 12 months.**

B) Major stationary air pollution sources located within tribal jurisdiction, including Title V sources.

C) Other, non-major, air pollution sources of concern located within tribal jurisdiction.

D) Whether or not the Reservation is located in an area that has been designated by EPA as “non-attainment” for one of the pollutants for which there are National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS).

E) Air pollution problems caused by transport from off-reservation, including nearby stationary sources and urban areas.

F) Any other air pollution concerns of the tribe (a concern which involves a severe air-related health risk will count for discretionary extra points, although the total for Criteria 1 cannot exceed 75 points).

2. Criteria 2- Current Air Quality Program Activities (Maximum 25 points)

Your proposal will be evaluated based upon the current air quality-related activities conducted by your program, including the following:

A. Ambient Air Monitoring

- The type of existing air monitoring equipment used by the tribe to monitor

and collect data.

- The status of Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs).
- Submittal of air quality monitoring data into EPA's national database (AQS).

B. Regulatory Program Development

- Air quality legislation enacted by the tribal government.
- Air quality regulations promulgated by the tribal government.
- Air permitting/compliance activities.

C. Outreach and Education Initiatives

- Activities which involve the dissemination of information regarding air pollution to the community and/or tribal leadership.

D. Participation in Regional and National Initiatives

- Efforts the tribe has made to participate in both national and regional air quality initiatives on an ongoing basis.

E. Other Tribal Air Program Activities

3. Other Factors

In addition to the evaluation criteria detailed above in *Section V, Evaluation Criteria*, please note the EPA will consider other factors, such as:

1. Use of tribal employees rather than relying predominantly on the use of contractors in accomplishing the tribe's air grant program tasks and activities.
2. The tribal program's history of completing EPA grant activities including the following: successful completion of work plan tasks and deliverables, timely submittal of required quarterly grant reports and Financial Status Reports (FSRs), compliance with all applicable grant award conditions and the establishment of office management and administrative procedures.

VI. Award Administration

Funding Decision Notification Letters: After EPA reviews the proposals and

makes funding decisions, the Air Division will send out notification letters by approximately **March 1, 2005** to each tribe that submitted a funding proposal. Notification letters will include: 1) the amount of funding being offered to the tribe, if any; 2) the date by which the application must be received by EPA; 3) the EPA project officer's comments on the proposed work plan and budget; and 4) an application packet. Notification letters will also be sent to those applicants who were not selected for funding.

Proposals that are selected for grant funding will be notified and requested to submit a full application, which must be postmarked no later than April 15, 2005. A listing and description of general EPA regulations applicable to the award of assistance agreements may be viewed at: http://www.epa.gov/ogd/AppKit/applicable_epa_regulations. Receipt of an application kit is not a guarantee of funding. Regulations concerning criteria for approving an application can be found in 40 CFR Part 35.511.

Grant Award: Once the completed application is received and reviewed by EPA, the Grant Specialist and/or Project Officer will contact the tribe if any additional revisions are necessary. **Awards will be made no later than September 30, 2005.**

Regulations governing the award and administration of Environmental Program Grants for tribes including AIR: 40 CFR part 31 and 40 CFR part 35, subpart B.

Quarterly project status reports and Financial Status Reports will be required. Quarterly reports should explain the status of each workplan task and deliverable, describe project activities and provide the EPA Project Officer with information about project development. EPA expects grantees to report environmental results, when they are achieved, as part of quarterly reporting. The Financial Status Report (FSR) must accurately account for all federal funds expended and identify appropriate use of federal funds. FSRs will not be required more frequently than quarterly. A final FSR will be required at the expiration or termination of the grant.

Disputes: Procedures at 40 CFR 30.63 and 40 CFR 31.70 will apply.

Confidentiality: Applicants must clearly mark information they consider confidential and EPA will make confidentiality decisions in accordance with Agency Regulations at 40 CFR, Part 2, Subpart B.

EPA Role and Evaluation of Performance: EPA's roles and responsibilities in carrying out workplan commitments can include workplan negotiations, joint tribal and project officer End of Year Reports and site visits to grantees. These actions contribute to EPA's evaluation of grantee performance towards meeting workplan commitments.

EPA reserves the right to reject all proposals, deny funding after applications have been submitted and to not make any awards.

VII. Agency Contacts

Thank you for your interest in the Region 9 Air Tribal Program. Tribes requesting information or questions regarding this announcement can contact one of the following Region 9 Air Project Officers:

Arizona: Doug McDaniel, (415)947-4106 or email mcdaniel.doug@epa.gov

California: Gary Lance, (415) 972-3992, or email lance.gary@epa.gov

California: Sara Bartholomew, (415) 947-4100 or email bartholomew.sara@epa.gov

Nevada: Roy Ford, (415) 972-3997, or email ford.roy@epa.gov